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## CORRESPONDENCE.

## PROFESSOR DE VERE'S 'L'AVARE.'

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—In justice to PROFESSOR DE VERE, I wish to state that the limited number of purely philological notes in my new edition of 'L'Avare' (the initial volume of *Classiques Français*) is due to myself, personally. PROF. DE VERE furnished me with the most elaborate notes I have ever seen for any book; but, as my edition was to be published at a very low price and was intended for students of French and not particularly for philological students, I found them so long that, as a matter of prudence, I eliminated nearly every purely philological note, unless it had some particular bearing upon the comprehension of the sentence. I shall not dispute with the learned professor who wrote the critique in your June issue, as to his opinion upon the necessity for students' having such profound and profuse philological notes as he thinks were required (in which opinion I differ materially from him); but I do not think it fair that he should point out only what he thinks are the defects in the annotation, without at the same time crediting the publication with what I do not hesitate to claim for it—that there is no better annotated edition to be had; while in price and appearance it is cheaper and better than any other published here in America.

Respectfully,

W. R. JENKINS.

New York.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—PROFESSOR CANFIELD, reviewing Mr. Jenkins' annotated edition of 'L'Avare,' naturally asks, why explain *sont de grandes dupes*? But *s'ajuster à eux* might claim an explanation; and it seems to be just such passages as *autoriser des choses plus étranges* where an explanation is absolutely necessary. As, in Elizabethan English, such words as *envy*, *jealousy*, *success* are the words likely to confuse pupils using the same words in changed meanings, so for pupils reading seventeenth century French and nineteenth century French, is it not wise and charitable to ex-

plain such words in MOLIÈRE as *succès*, *gêne*, *ennui*, *étrange*,—noting how weak has become the meaning of the last three?

Did not *étrange* during the century of Louis XIV. often justify moral indignation, excite emotion in contemplation of the extraordinary, and not intellectual astonishment or curiosity? It amounted often to *outrageous*, *monstrous*.

The passage above illustrates this meaning. And so for instance do, *Suis-je mon père une si étrange personne*?

*Cela est étrange que mes propres enfants me trahissent et deviennent mes ennemis.*

'L'Avare,' i, 5.

*Il pourrait m'obliger à quelque étrange chose.*

'Le Médecin malgré lui,' iii, 3.

and in 'Athalie,' ii, 5:

*De ce refus bizarre où seraient les raisons?*

*Il pourrait me jeter en d'étranges soupçons.*

And compare the often quoted *C'est une étrange entreprise que celle de faire rire les honnêtes gens.*

'La Critique,' 7.

W. F. STOCKLEY.

University of New Brunswick.

TO THE EDITORS OF MOD. LANG. NOTES:

SIRS:—Neither of the reviewers of PROF. SCHELE DE VERE'S edition of 'L'Avare' in the MOD. LANG. NOTES for June, mentions two singular errors occurring in the notes to p. 11, l. 17 and p. 25, l. 26, where it is stated that for *plus . . . qu'on ne peut*, etc., *plus . . . qu'on ne puisse*, etc., would now be used. On p. 32, l. 24 and p. 45, l. 13 analogous phrases occur (*plus grands que vous ne pensez—plus loin qu'on ne vous peut dire*), but no mention is made of them in the notes. Of course, the indicative is used now as well as by older writers, in such sentences as: "Vous écrivez mieux que vous ne *parlez*; il est plus riche qu'il ne *l'était*; il est plus grand qu'on ne *peut* croire."

A. LODEMAN.

*Ypsilanti, Mich.*

## BRIEF MENTION.

The 'Traité sur le genre des noms français,' by PAUL LOUIS GUERIN (Boston: Carl Schoenhof), is a classification highly useful for

reference in French composition. The masculine endings with the feminine exceptions are first presented alphabetically, afterwards the feminine endings with the masculine exceptions, and lastly a list of nouns whose meaning varies with their gender. The pamphlet (30 pp.) shows much labor on the part of its author, and will save tedious dictionary work.

A deprint from the *Jahrbuch für Münchener Geschichte* contains the history of the Jesuit drama in Munich, by DR. KARL VON REINHARDSTÖTTNER. Appended are extracts from the journal (1595-1772) of the society, relating to the plays, and an indication of the sources from which they came.

A deprint from the *Rendiconti* of the Accademia dei Lincei by PIO RAJNA, discusses the source of the story of Giocondo and King Astolfo found in the 'Orlando Furioso' (cxxviii) and in a *novella* of SERCAMBI (1347-1424). This common source RAJNA determines to be an Italian version of the fourteenth century, which in turn resembles strongly the story on which the 'Arabian Nights' is based.

In his 'Sprogekart over Sønderjylland,' published recently, Candidat H. V. CLAUSEN indicates clearly the language conditions of Southern Jutland at the present day. The map is divided into six sections, distinguished by different colors denoting respectively Danish, Danish threatened, Danish dying, German and Frisian. In the most northern division, Danish is the common language, German being spoken only by officials. As we go farther south, we find Danish succumbing more and more to the German influence, until we finally reach Angel, in which the old tongue has almost entirely died out. Candidat CLAUSEN adds a brief description of his map and a table showing the number of persons still employing Danish either wholly or in part as a means of communication. He also makes an interesting comparison between the present conditions and those of 1848, giving for the purpose a reduced copy of BIERNATZKI'S German map of that year. As the author says, exact conclusions are impossible, but the results here given may be accepted as practically correct. The map would be made clearer were the colors more sharply defined. The price is only 10 øre

(2¼ c.) and copies may be ordered from any Danish bookseller.

The 'Dansk Bogfortegnelse,' as the name implies, is the publishers' list of the Danish book-trade. It is issued in five numbers of about eight 8vo pages each, alphabetically arranged under the authors' names, giving, in addition to the title, the form, price and publisher. For practical purposes this list is invaluable, the titles being very carefully given and with sufficient fullness for all but bibliographical purposes. It may be of interest to note that the publication was commenced under the editorship of F. FABRICIUS with the title 'Almindeligt Dansk-Norsk Forlagscatalog,' which was later changed to the present one. In 1859 FABRICIUS was succeeded by J. VAHL, who was in turn followed by the publisher, G. E. C. GAD. In 1841 the numbers issued up to that date were collected into one volume with complete subject index, elaborately subdivided, and similar volumes were issued in 1861, 1871, 1881-82, and 1887. The yearly subscription of one Kr., with 25 øre additional for foreign postage, may be sent to the publisher, G. E. C. GAD, Copenhagen. A similar publishers' list for Sweden is issued in Stockholm under the title 'Svensk Bog-Katalog,' the last collected volume of which was published in 1878. It corresponds in form and scope with the Danish work.

The Scandinavian courses at the University of Copenhagen for the present semester are as follows: PROF. WIMMER will lecture on the Danish language and literature in the 14th and 15th centuries. V. SAABY, Docent in Danish philology, will go through the fac-simile of A. M. MS. No. 24, 4to, containing a portion of Valdemars Sjællandske Lov, and DR. FINNUR JÓNSSON will take up selected poems from Carmina Norræna and hold exercises in Old Norse composition. In the literary *Fach*, DR. J. PALUDAN will continue his lectures on the history of Danish Literature. The semester ends December 22nd, and after the Christmas holidays the courses are continued until June.

Macmillan & Co. publish a book for children, 'Nos Enfants et leurs Amis,' by SUZANNE CORNAZ, edited with notes, vocabulary and short exercises by EDITH HARVEY. 98 pp, 40 cents.

'Les Chansons de Béranger' is the latest addition to the educational works of DR. L. SAUVEUR (New York: Christern, Jenkins; Boston: Schoenhof). The author has selected the most popular songs of the French poet and accompanies them with a commentary in his inimitable style.

A deprint of ninety quarto pages reaches us, in the beautiful typography and large-paper margins of the "Notices et Extraits des Manuscrits de la Bibliothèque Nationale" (tome xxxiii, 1<sup>re</sup> partie). The work is by M. PAUL MEYER, and is entitled, "Notice sur deux anciens mss. français ayant appartenu au marquis de la Clayette." The MS. *recueils* in question are copies, made for LA CURNE DE SAINTE-PALAYE—who was a life-long collector of such treasures—from originals of which no trace can now be discovered. The first of the MSS., designated by M. MEYER as the *grand recueil de Clayette*, is a veritable library of literary productions of the thirteenth century, in large part unknown. The analysis of its contents, treated under thirty-six heads, occupies all but a few pages of the present study, and comprises a noteworthy list of lives of saints, miracles, chronicles, chansons, and works falling under various other categories. The second MS. contains only four short poems, three of which are the work of WATRIQUET DE COUVIN, who flourished in the first half of the fourteenth century.

In 1886, M. ALFRED BINET, an eminent representative of the French School of Psychology, published (Paris: Félix Aican) a clear and solid little work entitled 'La Psychologie du raisonnement,' which deserves to be carefully read and re-read by every student of language. There lies on our table another small volume by the same author, 'The Psychic Life of Micro-Organisms' (The *Open Court* Publishing Company, Chicago. Price 50 cents), which treats of a branch of Comparative Psychology little known, and introduces the reader to certain fundamental problems of psychical import that are of interest to the investigator of human speech as an external means for the interpretation of psychic conditions. Just as it concerns a student of language to know something of the physiological limitations of his subject; as, for example, brain topography enough to have

general ideas as to the chief localization of the speech centre in the left lobe of the brain, so it touches his interests to know what is the probable point of departure in the animal economy for so important a factor in the development of knowledge as memory. This faculty, according to the psychological creed of PROFESSOR GEORGE F. ROMANES, begins with the enchinoderms (sea-urchins, star-fish and their like), but our author shows in a series of patient investigations illustrated by numerous diagrams, "that psychological phenomena begin among the lowest classes of beings; they are met with in every form of life from the simplest cell to the most complicated organism."

In contesting the theory of the distinguished English Scientist concerning memory, M. BINET adduces proofs also against his hypothesis that "reason commences with the higher crustaceans; that primary instincts begin with the larvae of insects, and secondary instincts with insects and spiders."—The same publishing house has sent out another small volume (octavo, 267 pp. Price \$1.00) made up of a series of essays by the editor of the *Open Court*, DR. PAUL CARUS, and entitled: 'Fundamental Problems.' The philosophy here presented is in accordance with the subjective principle of Monism—that all existence is one; "it is the natural outcome \*\*\*, the historical development of Kantianism, broadened by later inquiries and adapted to the needs of our time \*\*"; a protest against the halfness of agnosticism and the perverted ethics of hedonism, \*\*\* propounding a humanitarian ethics which must lead us not on the easy path of 'least resistance,' but on the thorny and steep road of progress" (Preface, pp. 4, 6). Perhaps the most interesting chapter of the work treats of "Form and Formal Thought;" it is here that the author, in a remarkably trenchant and lucid style, deals suggestively with the basic problems of philosophy and is most effective in clearing up the ideas of the ordinary layman. The little book is neatly printed on good paper and contains at the end an index that greatly enhances its value for purposes of reference.

The *Academy* (Syracuse) for May, vol. iv, No. 4, pp. 165-179, contains an article on "The Annotation of English Texts for School

Use" by PROFESSOR SAMUEL THURBER, of Boston; pp. 179-200, an instructive contribution entitled: "English in the High School.—Report of the Committee of the Northern Illinois High School Teachers' Association."—The June number, pp. 233-268, has a series of three articles on "English in the Secondary Schools": 1. by OLIVER FARRAR EMERSON (Ithaca, N. Y.); 2. by JNO. G. R. McELROY (University of Penna.); 3. by MRS. SARA E. H. LOCKWOOD (Hillhouse High School, New Haven). Following these comes, pp. 268-257, "Familiar Talk by a High School Teacher of English."—The September number, pp. 311-323, contains an article by MRS. KATHARINE B. FISHER (High School, Oakland, Cal.) on "The Teaching of English"; pp. 323-335, by AGNES M. LATHE (High School, Washington) on "The Study of Shakespeare." The October number, pp. 369-384, offers us "English in Secondary Schools.—The Art of English Composition," by PROF. J. SCOTT CLARK (Syracuse University); pp. 384-395, "English Literature in Secondary Schools," by WALTER C. BRONSON (Butler Academy, Mo.); pp. 396-403, "English Preparation for Latin," by REV T. C. FOOTE (Racine Coll. Gram. School).—The *Writer* for October, pp. 217-219, contains an article on "English in England," by ARTHUR HOWARD NOLL.—The *Dial* (Chicago) for May, vol. ix, No. 109, contains an interesting survey of "Recent Educational Books" (seven in number) by PROFESSOR EDWARD PLAYFAIR ANDERSON, Prof. of English in the Ohio University; the June number follows with a review by PROF. MELVILLE B. ANDERSON (State University of Iowa) of EDMUND GOSSE's 'History of Eighteenth Century Literature'; in the July number is a review by OLIVER F. EMERSON of 'Emerson in Concord' by EDWARD WALDO EMERSON; the August issue offers us a notice by HORATIO N. POWERS of vols. vii and viii of "A Library of American Literature" by STEDMAN HUTCHINSON; also a review by EDWARD PLAYFAIR ANDERSON of 'Indoor Studies' by JOHN BURROUGHS; the September number contains a lengthy notice by PROF. MELVILLE B. ANDERSON of 'The Century Dictionary,' vol. i, and PROFESSOR WILLIAM MORTON PAYNE calls our attention to eight volumes of "Recent Books of Poetry,"

among which are SWINBURNE's 'Poems and Ballads,' Third Series, and HIGGINSON's 'The Afternoon Landscape'; OCTAVE THANET notices very pleasantly 'Diego Velasquez and His Times,' by PROF. CARL JUSTI of Bonn.—The *Independent* (N. Y.) for June 13 contains an interesting article by PROF. T. W. HUNT of Princeton College, on "The Linguistic Study of Literature;" a paper also was read by PROF. HUNT at the twenty-first annual meeting of the American Phil. Association, held at Lafayette College in July, on "Open Questions in English Philology." At the same meeting, contributions were presented by PROF. ALBERT S. COOK, of Yale University, on "A Northumbrianized Judith Text, and Commentary;" by PROF. JAMES M. GARNETT of the University of Virginia, on "Some Late Views of Beowulf;" and by PROF. SYLVESTER PRIMER of Providence, R. I., on "The Pronunciation in and about Fredericksburg, Virginia."—The *Haverford College Studies*, No. 1, pp. 112-162, contains a detailed and important treatment of "The Symbolic Use of the Colors Black and White in Germanic Tradition," by PROF. FRANCIS B. GUMMERE of Haverford College, Penna.—*Scribner's Magazine* for October, pp. 451-472, contains an interesting descriptive article entitled "A Summer in Iceland," by PROF. CHARLES SPRAGUE SMITH of Columbia College, N. Y.

The first half (covering the vowels) of the first volume of PROFESSOR W. MEYER's 'Grammaire des Langues Romanes' has reached us too late for review in our present issue. In awaiting an extended notice of this admirable work, which every Romance scholar should possess, our readers need to know that it will be published in three octavo volumes of about 550 pages each, price 60 francs. The part now before us contains 256 pages printed on good paper and in beautiful type; the second half of the volume is promised at an early date. All subscriptions should be sent directly to the publisher, H. WELTER, 59 rue Bonaparte, Paris.

The stock of books available for historical reading has been increased by MME. DE WITT's 'Les Héroïnes de Harlem,' edited with notes and glossary by PAUL E. E. BAR-

BIER (Hachette & Cie.; Boston: Carl Schoenhof). This interesting text, combined with good editing, will meet a favorable reception on this side of the Atlantic. The vocabulary, however, is too minute, defining the parts of verbs as well as their infinitive.

The same firm offers a compilation from MICHELET under the title of 'Récits d'Histoire de France: Part I. From the earliest times to the battle of Rocroy.' The few notes, the biographical and geographical index, and the vocabulary, are due to A. ESCLANGON. Maps and illustrations accompany the text. To cover the ground indicated, the editor has made the serious mistake of dividing his one hundred and seventy pages of text into sixty-three chapters, which detracts greatly from the value of the book for class use. Selections from the great historians of France are much needed. It is to be hoped that Part II may retrieve this error of plan.

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#### ANNOUNCEMENTS.

*D. C. Heath & Co.*, Boston. 'Sept Grands Auteurs du XIX<sup>e</sup> Siècle: Lamartine, Hugo, de Vigny, de Musset, Théophile Gautier, Mérimée, Coppée,' by PROF. ALCÉE FORTIER of Tulane University, La.; FREYTAG'S 'Aus dem Staat Friedrichs des Grossen,' with explanatory and critical notes by PROF. HERMANN HAGER of Owen's College, England; LESSING'S 'Minna von Barnhelm,' with notes and an extended introduction, by PROF. SYLVESTER PRIMER of Providence, R. I.

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#### PERSONAL.

DR. J. A. FONTAINE, Instructor in Romance Languages and Latin at the University of Nebraska (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. ii, p. 235), has been appointed Professor of Modern Languages in the University of Mississippi.

DR. BENJ. L. BOWEN, College Professor of French at Bowdoin College (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. iii, p. 267), was called last June to the Ohio State University (Columbus) as Associate Professor of French and German.

DR. THOMAS McCABE, Instructor in French at the University of Michigan (cf. MOD. LANG. NOTES, vol. iii, p. 267), has been called to the

Indiana State University (Bloomington) as Professor of Modern Literatures and Director of the German Department.

ALBERT S. COOK, Professor of the English Language and Literature in the University of California has been called to the chair of English in Yale University (New Haven, Conn). PROFESSOR COOK was graduated (1872) at Rutgers College; he next held the post of Associate in English (1879-1881) in the Johns Hopkins University; and afterwards (1882) received his Ph. D. degree at the University of Jena (Germany), since which time he has been connected with the University of California in the capacity noted above.

HORATIO S. WHITE, Professor of the German Language and Literature at Cornell University (Ithaca, N. Y.) is engaged on a 'Manual of German Prose Composition,' of which the text has already been printed by Allyn & Bacon (Boston). The selections for this work have been taken principally from standard American Classics that contain references to German life and literature. Notes and a vocabulary will be added, and the whole published during next summer.

C. FONTAINE, formerly of the Washington High School, has just published a work entitled: 'Les Poètes français du XIX<sup>e</sup> siècle.' This treatise consists of extracts from the principal French poets from CHATEAUBRIAND (1769-1848) down to EPHRAÏM MIKAEL (1866), and these are accompanied by biographical notices and literary footnotes. A special notice will be given of the work in one of our later issues.

DR. JNO. R. WIGHTMAN has been called to the chair of French in Iowa College, Grinnell, Iowa. MR. WIGHTMAN is a native of Canada and a graduate (1871) of the University of Toronto. The year following his graduation he spent in Knox College Theological Seminary, Toronto, and at the end of the year received the M.A. degree from his Alma Mater. During the next ten years he was teacher in the High School at New Castle, Ontario, and in the Collegiate Institute at Kingston. In 1883 he went to Europe to work in modern languages, and spent two and a half years at Paris, Berlin and Bonn. In 1885 he entered